needs. These include development of a river basin management plan, maintenance of minimum ecological flows, augmentation of sewerage infrastructure, catchment area treatment, etc. This initiative is aimed towards rejuvenating the collective efforts of the Centre and the States for cleaning the river. The Central Government has also initiated measures such as concurrent evaluation of schemes to improve implementation of National River Conservation Plan.

Field trials of GM crops

*234.SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether open field trials of BT rice were conducted in Jharkhand, while the central regulatory body stipulates restricted trial, under controlled surroundings;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures Government has taken or proposes to take a check open field trials of Genetically Modified (GM) crops by MNCs, in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. M/s. Maharashtra Hybrid Company, Mumbai had conducted confined experiment field trials during Rabi-2007 to generate biosafety and agronomic data at 11 locations, *viz.* Anand in Gujarat, Bhandara and Rajgad in Maharashtra, South 24 Parganas and Midnapur in West Bengal, Gaya in Bihar, Ranchi in Jharkhand, Davangere and Mandya in Karnataka and Tanjore and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu in accordance with the biosafety norms stipulated by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC).

(c) The Biosafety measures stipulated by the GEAC to prevent possible contamination due to gene flow during experimental field trials with GM crops by public and private institutions are subject to stringent norms such as; (i) maintaining a crop specific isolation distance as well as biological and physical barriers as per the 'Minimum Indian Seed Certification Standards' recommended by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research; (ii) submission of a validated event specific protocol to detect the level of contamination at 0.01% LOD before initiating the field trials as per the. Hon'ble Supreme Court direction dated 8.5.2007; (iii) designating a lead scientist responsible for the field trials; (iv) monitoring of field trials by a monitoring committee; and (v) post harvest restrictions.

Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management Authority

*235.SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management Authority (CAMPA);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether CAMPA has some issues with the Himachal Pradesh Government over outstandings, due to which it has not yet started releasing funds to the State Government for implementation of Compensatory Afforestation Scheme due to which Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) plans under implementation have been withheld;

(d) whether Government has received any request from the State Government to release funds till the outstanding issues are resolved; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated the 10.07.2009 in IA No. 2143 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995 in the matter of T.N, Godavarman Thirumuilpad *Versus* Union of India & Others, It has been decided to set up the State CAMPAs in the concerned States/UTs. The State CAMPA is a three tier body. It has a Governing Body chaired by the Chief Minister of the concerned State/UT, a Steering Committee chaired by Chief Secretary of the State/UT and an Executive Committee chaired by the State Principal Chief Conservator of Forests. To oversee and monitor implementation of works and to resolve inter-State issues there is a provision of a Committee named as National CAMPA Advisory Council chaired by the Central Minister for Environment & Forests.

(c) to (e) There are no issues pending pertaining to Himachal Pradesh Government in the matter. As soon as, the State CAMPAs are constituted, funds would be released by Ad-hoc CAMPA for taking up works as per the approved Annual Plan of Operations (APOs) in accordance with the Order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 10.07.2009.

Retail fuel price

*236.SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the companies retailing in fuel do not enjoy the freedom to fix fuel prices in line with International prices and, therefore, private fuel retailers in the country have to incur heavy losses;

(b) whether, keeping in view the high global crude oil prices, Government has any proposal to free petrol and diesel prices in the country; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, how they propose to compensate private oil retail companies, as is being done by Government in respect of public sector oil retailers for their losses?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) To protect the consumer from the increasing price volatility and uncertainty of the international oil prices, since 2004-05, Government has been modulating the retail selling prices of the four sensitive petroleum products sold by the three Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies, namely, Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation. However, the other marketing companies, including the private sector ones, are not subject to any price controls and are free to fix their retail prices as per market conditions and on commercial considerations. As the Private Sector Oil Companies are not subject to pricing restrictions by the Government, they are not compensated for losses on marketing of Petrol and Diesel.

At present, there is no proposal to free Petrol & Diesel price in the country.